

What Kind of School Supplies Do We Need?

ORGANIZING STYLES

Everyone has an organizing style. It is important to recognize your student's organizing style before purchasing school supplies. You want the supplies to match with their organizing style and strengths. Here are three common types:

VISUAL ORGANIZERS:

- Think of missing items in relation to the place they saw them last
- Need to have all of their items visible
- Have a hard time finding items they cannot see
- Respond well to color, pictures and other visual cues
- Feel disorganized when their work area+ is visually overloaded

SPATIAL/COZY ORGANIZERS:

- Think of missing items in the place they used the last.
- Need to have all supplies within reach while doing homework
- Need to have their work area cleaned off
- Need a work area that "feels good" to them before they can start work
- Like dance, music, and drama
- Are sensitive to how they and others are feeling
- Feel disorganized when their work area is a mess

CHRONOLOGICAL/SEQUENTIAL ORGANIZERS:

- Think of missing items in relation to the time they last had the item.
- Access information chronologically
- Think with numbers
- Remember dates, times of events, and the order of events
- Can remember sequential steps in some sort of personal order
- Keep stacks of paper on their desks that may appear messy, but there is a certain order to the piles
- Look at detail
- Memorize best through repetition
- Feel frazzled when their work area is not in "order"

Maybe you already know your students organizing style, because you recognize it from the above descriptions. Maybe you are still struggling to decide. Take the questionnaire on the next page to help you determine your student's organizing style.

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What is My Child's Organizational Style?

“Yes, there is an organizing style. These styles influence how a person thinks of past events, forms habits, categorizes items, and finds those items. People utilize three basic organizing styles: visual, spatial/cozy, and chronological sequential,” (Kutscher & Moran 20-21). The questions below will help you determine your student’s organizational style, and once you know this, you can purchase the school supplies that suits their style the best.

1. When your child is looking for his/her backpack, he/she asks you
 - A. “Did you see my backpack?”
 - B. “Do you know where I put my backpack?”
 - C. Do you know where I last had my backpack?
2. When your child is doing his/her homework, he/she
 - A. Puts all the items he/she will need for the homework out in front of him/her.
 - B. Clears off the area before he/she does his/her homework.
 - C. Stacks his/her homework in a certain order before or after completing the assignments.
3. Your child responds best to a teacher who
 - A. Writes notes on the board.
 - B. Makes him/her feel good about himself/herself.
 - C. Runs a very structured orderly class.
4. When your child is invited to a party, he/she
 - A. Decides how much fun he/she thinks the party will be based on the design of the invitation.
 - B. Thinks about what he/she will do at the party.
 - C. Wonders how long the party will be.
5. You have noticed that your child likes/liked to
 - A. Looks at pictures.
 - B. Build with blocks or Legos.
 - C. Play with electronic devices.
6. When your child returns from a playdate/hanging out, he/she
 - A. Describes what his/her friend’s house looked like.
 - B. Describes how he/she felt at the playdate/hanging out.
 - C. Describes detailed events of the playdate/hanging out in the order they took place.
7. Would your child rather go to a
 - A. Movie.
 - B. Physical activity class such as gymnastics, dance, or soccer.
 - C. Computer trade show.
8. When picking out a book at the library, your child looks for
 - A. The book with the nicest cover.
 - B. A title he/she feels good about.
 - C. A book about history or a biography.

If you answered mostly “A,” your child may be considered to have a visual organizational style.

If you answered mostly “B,” your child may be considered to have a spatial/cozy organizational style.

If you answered mostly “C,” your child may be considered to have a chronological/sequential organizational style.

Your child may have a combination of organizational styles. A common combination style is visual-spatial. Children with this combination style generally like puzzles, have a great imagination, be sensitive to their feelings, and have a poor sense of time.

Advice on School Supplies

BACKPACKS

1. Have your child go with you to buy the backpack. He/she needs to select it.
2. Try to find backpacks with limited outside pockets—more pockets=more places to lose things.
3. A middle school student's backpack needs to be bigger than an elementary school's backpack in order to accommodate the increase in books.

VISUAL ORGANIZERS will prefer a colorful looking backpack.

SPATIAL ORGANIZERS need the backpack to feel good, and they need to be able to move their arms while wearing it. Have them try on the backpack. Look for padding in the back part of the back to reduce discomfort on the student when the pack is full of books with pointy edges and corners.

CHRONOLOGICAL ORGANIZERS may like packs with inside compartments for storing specific materials.



EXPERT TIP: put all the school supplies in the backpack before you buy it, and zip it up. If everything fits, perfect. If not, keep shopping.

PLANNERS

Eckstein will provide student planners next year. If our planner does not work for your student, consider the following:

VISUAL ORGANIZERS: look for color inside, but not enough to cause distractions. The more colorful the outside cover is, the easier it will be for the student to locate.

SPATIAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL ORGANIZERS: These students may have a difficult time choosing a planner that suits their needs. Ask them these questions: If you had to design your planner what would it look like? How would the days be laid out? What size should your planner be? Do you like to use sticky notes? Look for a planner that suits his/her needs based on the answers to these questions.

ALTERNATIVES TO PLANNERS: A monthly calendar with space for each class. Students write on the calendar or use sticky notes.



EXPERT TIP: Make sure to review the planner at home daily, a few times a week or weekly. Students often report that they write their work in the planner at school, but do not look at their planner at home.

Advice on School Supplies

SCHOOL BINDERS

Eckstein requires one 3 inch binder—the school binder. Individual classes may require an additional binder—the class binder. For the student's school binder consider the following:

VISUAL ORGANIZERS: May prefer a separate binder for each class instead of a school binder. Many papers in one binder could cause a visual overload for the visual organizer.



CONSIDER THIS: Students can access lockers before school, before lunch, after lunch and after school. If your visual organizer prefers more than one binder, consider getting 2 or 3 binders and combining 2-3 classes in each binder, instead of 6 separate binders.

SPATIAL ORGANIZERS: may prefer a single binder system, because it keeps all of their schoolwork in one place.

CHRONOLOGICAL ORGANIZERS: may prefer placing subjects in sequential order within their binder.



CONSIDER THIS: Visual organizers need help keeping the zippered binder neat. It doesn't work for them if it's messy. **Spatial Organizers** might not like the jagged feel of the zipper.



Expert Tip: Zipper binders are great, if students use the zippers.

BINDER TABS

Students must have some way to separate the classes in their binders. There are many types of binder tabs and folders from which to choose. Put some thought and discussion into the best type for your student.



pocket. I like these best because you can put things that aren't hole punched in the pocket, but if it is hole punched, you can clip it in the section."

"I use the pocket dividers. Last year I didn't and all my papers ripped through the hole punches, so I just stopped clipping them in."

"I use dividers that you can write your subject on and has a

"I use normal dividers with write-in subjects, because pocket dividers seem like it would be easy to lose things."

"I use 3 hole punched plastic folders instead of dividers, because it allows the paper inside to be quickly taken out and not ripped."

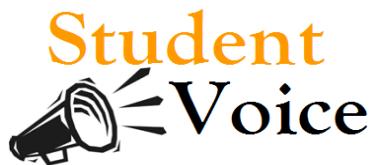
"I don't use dividers. Instead I use plastic folders for each subject that have those brass tongs, where I put a folder divider in. the left side of the folder is current work, the folder divider has general info about the class and behind that on the right folder slot, I put passed back work."

Kutscher, Martin L., and Marcella Moran. *Organizing the Disorganized Child: Simple Strategies that work.* New York: HarperStudio, 2009. Print.

Advice on School Supplies

PENCIL POUCHES

All students need a place to store their pencils, pens and calculators. Some binders have a built-in pencil pouch, some students prefer a clip in pencil pouch; some prefer pencil pouches that do not clip in. Discuss the best pencil pouch option with your student before purchasing them.



buying an extra clip in one that takes up too much space. It is sometimes a little small, but usually is a good size."

"Pencil Pouches that clip into my binder greatly help me. It has a mesh front (so pencil shreds can fall out and it doesn't get as dirty) and zips up. However, it's rather ugly and I don't particularly love it."

"You get it already inside the binder, it is not a clip in.

You save money by not

"Mine is just a pocket on top of my binder. If I got a normal one it would probably take up more space."

"I have a zipper pencil pouch that does not clip in [the binder]. I like that it is big, but I drop it in the hallways a lot, so I would prefer one that clips in."

"I have a clip in flat black pencil pouch. I like the size of it because it allows a lot of pens and pencils, but remains relatively flat. I don't like the pockets are different size than the average pencil length. It makes it very challenging to put pencils in there."



EXPERT TIP: A clip in pencil pouch with room for supplies decreases the chances of your student losing it.

PAPER, PENCILS, PENS

Paper: Reinforced loose-leaf AKA notebook paper is heavier and has a line of plastic to reinforce the holes. If your student struggles with organization get this type of loose-leaf, because ripped holes are an organizational disaster. If students struggle with penmanship get wide ruled paper. Eckstein requires composition notebooks also known as marble notebooks. Students can purchase any type of composition book, they do not need to stick to the marble cover. If your student struggles with penmanship get the wide ruled composition book.

Pencils: Yellow number 2 pencils are wonderful. Students may prefer mechanical pencils, but make sure the lead is heavy enough students can apply enough pressure to the pencil to write dark enough the teacher can see it. Light pencil is difficult to see on every type of paper.

Pens: Inexpensive dark blue or black pens are perfectly acceptable. Right handed students drag pens, and left handed students push pens, so lefties often struggle with inexpensive pens that are built to drag. Pentel EnerGel pens work well for lefties, (this lefty anyway) though they can be pricey when not on sale. If your student can keep track of the Pentel pen casing, you can purchase ink refills for these pens online for less than a dollar.



Expert Tip: Pay attention to Back to School Sales and purchase enough of these school supplies to make it through the entire school year, especially notebook paper which is expensive all other times of the year.

Eckstein Supply List for 2017-2018

General Supply List for Classes:

- One 3" heavy duty three-ring notebook (maybe an extra one for later in the year, if needed due to wear and tear)
- Notebook dividers (5 tab minimum)
- 1 sturdy two pocket bifold folder with hole punches.
- One package of notecards 3x5 or 5x7, student's choice
- Pencil pouch
- Writing supplies (no Sharpies allowed):
 - 4 dozen sharpened pencils (12 per quarter)
 - 32 pens (black or blue ink) (8 per Quarter)
 - 4 Highlighters (1 per quarter)
 - two fine-tip black non-permanent markers (ie. Flair or Pilot)
- Erasers
- 500 sheets 8 1/2" x 11" notebook paper (lined, 125 sheets per quarter)
- Flash (thumb) Drive if preferred. Consider using the OneDrive instead.
- 4 operation calculator: If you are in a **7th or 8th grade** math class, wait to get specific instructions from your teacher about the calculator you will need.
- 6th and 8th graders:** Five composition notebooks, 80-100 pages
- 7th Graders:** Six composition notebooks 80-100 pages (2 for LA).

- 8th graders** - an additional 1 1/2" view binder is required for your Language Arts class; the notebook will stay at school so it can be a used binder, if preferred.

If your student struggled to keep track of their work last year, consider getting red and green two pocket, bifold folders with hole punches. Label the red folder "Work to Take Home" and the green folder "Work to Turn In."

Advisory Supply List (for all 6th graders, and 7th/8th graders who did not create a portfolio during the past school year):

- One 1 1/2" binder
- 5 dividers

Individual teachers may request additional supplies once students are assigned to their classes. Teachers will provide this information during the first week of school.

Donations of any of these supplies are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off in the Main Office. Thank you.